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A. M. A. Principles of Ethics.

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All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be Typewritten.

Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

VOL. VIII AUGUST, 1910. No. 8

NOTICE!

The Register and Directory is now being compiled for the edition of 1910. We expect to issue it in August or September. Please help us to make it as accurate as possible by sending in NOW, any changes of address that have come to your attention. Don't wait a month or two and then send them in; send them in right away.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Dr. J. J. Arberry, convicted of the crime of trying to obtain money by false pretense, last January, appealed the case and on July 11th the Appellate Court for the 1st District handed down a decision sustaining the verdict and judgment of the lower court. Judge Dunne, before whom the case was tried, was very careful during its conduct and the Appellate Court seems not to have found any errors that would sustain a reversal. For this we should be very thankful, and also to the attorney for the San Francisco County Medical Society, Mr. Walter Kaufman, who handled the case in a masterly fashion and whose time was almost given to the society for this work. At last the point has been raised and sustained that a physician may testify to certain conditions of an individual as matters of fact and not merely as matters of opinion. The reverse, which is an absurdity, has heretofore been held. In the decision the Court says:

"There is little danger of an honorable, upright physician being held to criminal account for a mistaken diagnosis; but where a dishonest physician has made a wilfully false statement as to a mortal disease solely with the view of obtaining money from the victim, the law should deal severely with such physician. We do not mean to even intimate by what has been said that the law will hold a physician liable criminally for a statement honestly but mistakenly made as to his professional judgment in regard to a disease. But the fact that one is a licensed physician will not be allowed as a cloak to shield him from all responsibility for statements wilfully made with the sordid view of obtaining the money of the unwary."

If more courts would take this same view of the relations of the physician to the public, and of the licentiate to the public, there would be a great deal less quackery rampant and there would be a larger respect for the medical profession in the public mind. Perhaps an era of change has come and quackery will be more persistently discouraged in the future than it has been in the past. We can only hope so—and continue to do what we can to convict the Arberrys of the medical profession.

These are not propitious days for dishonest quackery. In January, J. J. Arberry was convicted, in San Francisco, of the

ANOTHER crime of obtaining money by
CONVICTION false pretense. In June, Dr.

Herbert T. Thornberg was convicted, in Sacramento, of a similar offense. Arberry's case is now before the Appellate Court on appeal; what will happen in the Thornberg case is as yet uncertain, but probably it will be appealed as all these quacks have a large fund for their protection and defense. Thornberg's is a particularly gratifying case, for he was associated with or employed by the notorious Fer Don, an advertising, unlicensed quack, who has been a pest in this state for years. Over and over again has the effort been made to prosecute this quack; but his victims were shy, and he always has a licentiate with him for protection. This time they both went too far. A Mrs. Beck, the complainant, stated to the Grand Jury that Fer Don had guaranteed to cure her rheumatism for \$200, and that Dr. Thornberg, said to be the partner of Fer Don, treated her. Indictments were returned against these two quacks, and on April 28th Thornberg surrendered himself; Fer Don disappeared and has not been located. Thornberg was tried by a jury in June, and, as already stated, convicted. The greatest difficulty encountered in proceeding against these criminals is found in the timidity of the victims; they dread the publicity that comes from exposure and a trial of the case in court. But possibly, now

This case presented the symptoms of a stretching of the nerve as evidenced by a paresis of motion and sensation. In such condition there is disappearance of some axis cylinders for considerable distance below the point of stretching. This type of nerve injury recovers of course without operative attention, yet the pathology as demonstrated by the incision made it apparent that the callus in forming undoubtedly would have involved the nerve to its serious damage.

Injuries similar to those of the musculo-spiral occur not infrequently to the ulnar and median nerves when the humerus is fractured near to these trunks. The treatment should differ in no wise from that accorded the musculo-spiral.

Discussion.

Dr. O. D. Hamlin, Oakland: I was interested in Dr. Brown's suture of the musculo-spiral nerve. I have had some of these cases and I must say that my results have not been as successful with regard to the return of the function of the nerve. Dr. Brown states that in 6 or 8 weeks the nerve function is returned. It has not been so in my cases. In one case particularly the function did not return for nearly nine months and I had almost lost hope of any return. This case of mine was not a case of musculo-spiral but was a case of stab wound under the arm where the median and ulna nerve and brachial artery were all severed. Immediate operation was not done on account of the circulation of the arm. It was a question as to whether the circulation would return and as to whether the arm should be amputated. The final result was good, however, and both nerves were sutured about six weeks after the injury and the thing which was the worst part was the retraction of the proximal end of the nerve. The distal end does not retract but the proximal end does retract. We had great difficulty in bringing them together, I used a piece of gauze and opening well up into the axillary space suturing the sheath of the nerve to the muscle because the traction was so great if left to itself the nerve would not hold and the suture to the muscle fixed it and helped to hold it. At the end of four months sensation and motion returned slowly and at the end of nine months the function of the arm was completely restored. With regard to injuries to the musculo-spiral nerve I have seen simple cases of fracture of the humerus at the end have a wrist drop because of injury to the nerve but two cases which I brought had typical wrist drop after about two months, final result was all right, function returned. The open method of fractures is indicated where you have a pathological condition to deal with but I do not believe we can say that every case should be open; I believe we have to study and watch. I do not know of any rule; it is a question of good judgment. I do not believe we should open all cases of fracture of the humerus where the musculo-spiral nerve is probably injured. The doctor thinks that a later operation is not so successful.

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A CASE OF THEOCIN POISONING.

By E. SCHMOLL, M. D., San Francisco.

The quick and reliable action of theocin has given it a preponderant place in the treatment of cardio-renal disease. Numerous publications attest its efficiency in desperate cases, and enormous diureses are common after its exhibition. These enthusiastic reports induce one to believe that the ideal diuretic has been discovered, and that the older drugs are of use only in the exceptional instances where theocin cannot be given.

The ideal diuretic is a substance which will promptly give therapeutic results without deleterious action on the kidneys or any other organ of the body. Too much cumulative action is also undesirable.

Even a moderate experience with theocin will show that it falls short of this ideal as the by-effects on the stomach and nervous system often prohibit its use and in a few reported cases, death has been hastened.

As caffein, theobromin, its derivatives diuretin and theocin have practically replaced all other diuretics on account of their recognized efficiency and prompt action, it will be of interest to consider their source, their common characteristics, their several advantages and disadvantages.

All of them are derivatives of xanthin; the hydrogen atom in the 1, 3 and 7 positions having been replaced by the methyl radical. Substitution of one hydrogen yields monomethylxanthin, of two dimethylxanthin, of three trimethylxanthin (better known as caffein). If in the dimethylxanthin the hydrogen is replaced in the 1st and 3rd positions we deal with theocin; in the 3rd and 7th with theobromin.

Animal experiment and clinical experience have shown that the common and most prominent pharmacological property of these derivatives in moderate doses is a stimulation of the nervous system, the striated muscles and the protoplasm of certain organs, especially the kidney. Large doses paralyze the same organs.

The action on the central nervous system is most marked with caffein, less with theocin, and practically nil with theobromin. The resulting nervousness, restlessness and insomnia are so severe, sometimes even after small doses of caffein, as to greatly limit its usefulness as a diuretic. Tremor and twitching of the hands may occasionally be seen. Theobromin and diuretin have almost no effect on the nervous system in clinical doses. Theocin generally shows little nervous disturbance until the third or fourth day. Then the irritability of the cortical motor centers is apparent and may occasionally be severe enough to cause convulsions. In experiments published by Allard, all the animals died in tetanic convulsions. Schlesinger was the first to describe similar results after the therapeutic use of theocin.

A typical case has lately come under my observation which was rather puzzling at the outset. As others may have had similar experiences the report may be of interest.

Clinical Treatises on the Pathology and Therapy of Disorders of Metabolism and Nutrition. By Carl von Noorden. Authorized American Edition. Edited and translated under the supervision of Alfred C. Croftan, M. D.

Part VIII. Inanition and Fattening Cures.

Part IX. Technic of Reduction Cures and Gout.

The author's well deserved renown on questions of metabolism is a sufficient recommendation for the above books. They deal with subjects of vital interest to every medical man, for there are very few persons frequenting doctors' offices who do not require so-called "building up," or, on the other hand, advice against overeating qualitatively if not quantitatively.

The entire field of dietetics is one with which but a small proportion of the profession is familiar. There are various reasons for this, the principal one being no doubt that after glancing at various lengthy treatises on metabolism, the reader decides that the problem is a complicated one, and is content to continue feeding his patients in a haphazard way. As a matter of fact, there is hardly any one method of treatment so simple of application, so easy of control, so fruitful in results, as the dietetic. And there is no exposé of the subject so easy to read, so clear, and above all so practical, as the series of monographs by Carl von Noorden. R. B.

Handbook of Therapy. Journal A. M. A., Chicago. Four hundred twenty-one pages. A compilation from the matter in the Therapeutic Department of the Journal of the American Medical Association, which has appeared during the last two or three years, published by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

This little book is decidedly worth while. It is a pleasing departure from the handbook of the usual type, in that it offers very good abstracts of very good articles which have been written sufficiently recently to present more than a glimpse of the present stage of metamorphosis that the treatment of many very common conditions is undergoing.

It does not deal with abstruse theories nor with untried methods nor does it deal with the treatment of every disease, in short, it does not aim to be a pocket edition of a system of medicine. This has allowed the editor latitude, of which he has very pleasingly taken advantage, to give greater space to matters of interest which may be properly dealt with in a short work, for instance, the six pages devoted to snake poisoning in the United States present very sufficiently a description of venomous snakes in the United States, the symptoms of poisoning, and an outline of practical treatment.

There is also an interesting extract on tobacco. Of the other subjects treated there is found a disposition to select subjects of interest and to deal with them in common sense way. The sketch of the treatment of myocarditis is worth rereading, in fact, it is difficult to pick out a single article that is not of active interest. Lest the reviewer be criticised as being over enthusiastic, it may be said that this is a dangerous book for undergraduates, who, only too easily develop the habit of relying on compendiums, but for physicians who desire to read something to fill in their odd quarter hours this little handbook is found very pleasant.

G. E. E.

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY SURGEONS.

The eighth annual meeting of the Pacific Association of Railway Surgeons will take place at the St. Francis Hotel, August 26-27, 1910.

DAVIS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OF THE A. M. A.

"The first year that your committee was appointed was marked by the unprecedented disaster to the great city of San Francisco, and it was felt that every effort should be made by our profession to relieve its suffering. Although very many wealthy members of our profession in San Francisco were utterly ruined financially, they, for the most part, heroically refused assistance, and the \$5,000 voted by our association for this purpose was refused with thanks. The last contribution received for the Davis memorial was from Dr. R. F. Rooney, member of our committee from California, in the sum of \$130, regretting that this amount was so little, owing to the great calamity which had befallen them."

NEW AND NON-OFFICIAL REMEDIES.

Chinosol (Chinosol Co., Parmele Pharmacal Co.).
Diaspirin (Farbenfabriken of Elberfeld Co.).
Nuclein Solution, Abbott (Abbott Alkaloidal Co.).
Nuclein Tablets, Abbott (Abbott Alkaloidal Co.).
Parathyroid Tablets (Armour & Co.).
Corpus Luteum Desiccated (Armour & Co.).
Pituitary Body Desiccated (Armour & Co.).
Pituitary Tablets (Armour & Co.).
Ferratin (Merck & Co.).
Arsenoferratin (Merck & Co.).
Arsenoferratin Tablets (Merck & Co.).
Arsenoferratose (Merck & Co.).

NEW MEMBERS.

Rosenberger, H. G., Whittier.
Cunningham, R. L., Los Angeles.
Stephenson, C. C., Los Angeles.
Brown, J. C., Los Angeles.
Smith, S., Los Angeles.
Townsend, V. R., Long Beach.
Martin, M. L., Los Angeles.
Morton, L. B., Pasadena.
Colloran, J. E., Los Angeles.
Remington, L. D., Monrovia.
Clark, C. S., Arroyo Grande.
Alvarez, W. C., San Francisco.
Rude, A. E., San Francisco.
Edwards, Wm., San Francisco.
Bergener, G. J., San Francisco.
Styan, Wm. E., San Francisco.
Yerington, H. H., San Francisco.
Scheier, R. B., San Francisco.
Hicks, J. W., Hammonton, Cal.
Cummings, R. S., National City.
Janes, Manning, La Mesa.
Swearingen, A. Wm., La Jolla.
Hart, Frank, Santa Cruz.

RESIGNED.

Dr. K. I. Howard, 1418 Larkin St., San Francisco.
Kibbe, M. E., Fruitvale.

DEATHS.

Barber, R. D., Corona, Cal.
Burleigh, C. A., Forest Hill, Cal.
McCracken, C. L., Redwood City.
Boxmeyer, C. H., Palo Alto, Cal.
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Counties.	President.	Secretary.	Meets.
Alameda County Medical Association.....	Chas. A. Dukes, Oakland.....	Pauline Nusbaumer 1169 Broadway, Oakland	3d Tuesday, 127 Telegraph Ave., Oakland
Butte County Medical Society.....	E. A. Kusel, Oroville.....	Ella F. Gatchell, Chico.....	2d Tuesday
Contra Costa County Medical Society....	C. R. Leech, Walnut Creek.....	F. Rattan, Martinez.....	1st Monday every other month.....
Fresno County Medical Society.....	C. P. Kjaerbye, Fresno.....	L. R. Willson, Fresno.....	1st Tuesday
Humboldt County Medical Society.....	C. W. Mills, Arcata.....	E. V. Falk, Eureka.....	2d Tuesday
Imperial County Medical Society.....	J. V. McCombs, El Centro.....	J. L. Cook, Brawley.....	? ? ?
Kern County Medical Society.....	S. F. Smith, Bakersfield.....	W. S. Fowler, Bakersfield.....	3d Monday
Los Angeles County Medical Society.....	W. W. Richardson, Los Angeles.....	Geo. H. Kress, Los Angeles.....	Friday, except July, Aug. & Sept.
Marin County Medical Society.....	F. J. Hund, Ross Station.....	H. O. Howitt, San Rafael.....	Every Thursday
Mendocino County Medical Society.....	F. E. Allen, Talmage.....	L. K. Van Allen, Ukiah.....	Meets quarterly
Merced County Medical Society.....	E. S. O'Brien, Merced.....	L. H. Woolson, Merced.....	1st Thursday
Monterey County Medical Society.....	T. C. Edwards, Salinas.....	H. T. Crabtree, Salinas.....	1st Saturday
Napa County Medical Society.....	F. C. Newton, St. Helena.....	O. T. Schultze, Napa.....	1st Tuesday
Orange County Medical Association.....	J. L. Beebe, Anaheim.....	Ida B. Parker, Orange.....	1st Tuesday
Placer County Medical Society.....	J. G. Mackay, Truckee.....	G. H. Fay, East Auburn.....	1st Saturday every 2d month
Riverside County Medical Society.....	A. W. Walker, Riverside.....	G. E. Tucker, Riverside.....	2d Monday
Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement	G. W. Duffley, Sacramento.....	Chas. McKee, Sacramento.....	3d Tuesday
San Benito County Medical Society.....	L. C. Hull, Hollister.....	F. O. Nash, Hollister.....	1st Monday
San Bernardino Medical Association.....	W. P. Burke, Highland.....	G. G. Moseley, Redlands.....	2d Tuesday
San Diego County Medical Society.....	R. E. Austin, San Diego.....	H. A. Thompson, San Diego.....	1st Friday
San Francisco County Medical Society....	Langley Porter, San Francisco.....	Rene Bine, San Francisco.....	2d Tuesday
San Joaquin County Medical Society.....	J. P. Hull, Stockton.....	B. F. Walker, San Joaquin.....	4th Friday, except July and August... ? ? ?
San Luis Obispo County Medical Society..	H. M. Cox, San Luis Obispo.....	R. M. Bradbury, San Luis Obispo ..	? ? ?
San Mateo County Medical Society.....	J. L. Ross, Redwood City.....	F. M. Seibert, San Mateo.....	1st Monday every 2d month
Santa Barbara County Medical Ass'n....	D. A. Conrad, Santa Barbara.....	T. A. Stoddard, Santa Barbara.....	2d Monday
Santa Clara County Medical Society.....	E. R. Wagner, San Jose.....	J. J. Kocher, San Jose.....	3d Wednesday.....
Santa Cruz County Medical Society.....	S. T. Pope, Watsonville.....	E. E. Porter, Watsonville.....	1st Monday
Shasta County Medical Society.....	S. T. White, Redding.....	B. F. Saylor, Redding.....	Meets quarterly
Solano County Medical Society.....	C. E. Turner, Big Pine, Cal.....	J. J. Hogan, Vallejo.....	3d Wednesday.....
Sonoma County Medical Society.....	S. Z. Peoples, Petaluma.....	Jackson Temple, Santa Rosa.....	1st Friday
Stanislaus County Medical Society.....	W. J. Wilhite, Modesto.....	B. F. Surryhne, Modesto.....	2d Tuesday at Modesto
Tehama County Medical Society.....	J. A. Owen, Red Bluff.....	F. L. Doane, Red Bluff.....	? ? ?
Tuolumne County Medical Society.....	E. E. Wilson, Greenville.....	C. F. English, Sonora.....	? ? ?
Ventura County Medical Society.....	J. C. Bynum, Ventura.....	P. S. Van Patten, Nordhoff.....	1st Monday
Yolo County Society for Medical Improvement	T. W. Gallion, Davisville.....	Frances L. Newton, Woodland.....	1st Tuesday, except July, Aug. & Sept.
Yuba-Sutter Counties Medical Society....	J. H. Barr, Marysville.....	G. W. Stratton, Marysville.....	Meets quarterly.....

N. B.—Secretaries will please notify Journal office of any changes taking place in their respective county.

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